

The City of Middletown Paint Recycling Fact Sheet



LATEX PAINT:

Because it's always better to see something used than just thrown away, check with a non-profit organization such as Oddfellows Playhouse (860-347-6143). Often charities will take donations of latex paint if there is a good amount of it and it is in good condition.

However, if there is very little paint remaining or the leftover paint is in poor condition, call the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 1-800-858-7378 to see if that particular paint has mercury in it. If the paint does have mercury, it must be treated as household hazardous waste and brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. If the paint is mercury-free, then you can leave the can open and let it dry out or mix it with sand or kitty litter. Once the paint has solidified, it can be thrown away with the regular trash. This is only applicable to latex paint that does not contain mercury. **Oil-based paint cannot go in to the regular garbage!**

OIL-BASED PAINT:

Oil-based paint is considered household hazardous waste and shouldn't go into the regular garbage.

Of course, the best option is to get someone to use the paint. Ask around. See if your friends, your church, or your favorite charity might need it.

The next best option for disposing of oil-based paint is to take it to a HHW Collection Day. These are sponsored by the City and are free of charge. Because of the exorbitant cost of such a day, they can only be held every other year. In order to find out more information about the nearest HHW Collection Day, call 860-344-3526.

Another option is to take your oil-based paint to a company that is licensed to handle HHW. Unfortunately, this is very expensive. For a listing of licensed businesses, call 860-424-3363526.



PAINT CANS:

Empty, dry paint cans may either be thrown in the regular trash or brought to the Middletown Recycling Center as scrap metal, no matter what kind of paint they once held. These cans cannot be recycled with regular bottles and cans.



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Future Paint Decisions:

Because old paint can be difficult to get rid of, it is important that we are careful when buying it. Use latex-based paint that is free of mercury whenever possible because it is the easiest way to get rid of. Also, only buy as much as you need. The less you have to get rid of, the less hassle you will have. Good luck and happy painting.